

REMARKS

Claim 9 remains in the application and has been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 USC 102, as being anticipated by Peterson '020 and, alternatively, under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Peterson '020.

A feature of the terminal device according to the present invention is that the accounting points are stored in a memory (45 in Fig. 3) built-in in the terminal device.

Advantages of this feature of the present invention are that a card reader and associated equipment are not required, the cost associated with circulating cards is eliminated, and the user does not have to go to a dealer to purchase a card. See the paragraph bridging pages 57 and 58 of the present application, for example.

It is respectfully submitted that Peterson '020 fails to show or suggest storing accounting points in a memory built-in in the terminal device. Peterson '020 teaches the use of a removable smart card (88 in Fig. 3) for storing the accounting points. Therefore, the system of Peterson '020 has the disadvantages that the present invention eliminates.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 9 is patentably distinct over Peterson '020.

Entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited, and it is respectfully submitted that the amendments made to the claims hereby raise no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, because all of the features of this invention have clearly been considered by the examiner in the prosecution of this application and because the present amendments serve only to further define and emphasize the novel features of this invention.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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